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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/28/01 12:46pm
Subject: self imposed penalty in Microsoft monopoly case

It seems to me that allowing a company that has been convicted of being a monopoly a chance to further expand into the only realm they do not control is inconsistent with any form of punishment. By allowing Microsoft to give computers using their software to schools you train a young group of computer users to be used to using the applications provided to them by Microsoft. Since they know and are familiar with these applications they will continue to use them in the future. This settlement actually makes good advertising sense for Microsoft. If they can corner the education market in this way they can finally truly control the entire computer industry, or at least an even larger segment of it. A billion dollars in computers to schools sounds good but is not inconsistent with a normal advertising budget at Microsoft. It is a budget very similar to the launch budget for Windows XP and just makes good business sense for them. If they are to supply a billion dollars in computers to schools as part of the remedy for monopolistic practices these computers should not have the windows operating system on them. If they do it only amounts to advertising for Microsoft. If it is your goal in prosecuting Microsoft to reward them for being a monopoly by all means allow them to set this as their "punishment." However, if you truly wish to allow a true spirit of competition and free enterprise to grow in the computer industry you must set a remedy which curtails and does not increase their ability to monopolise this market.

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